

Diocese of Wollongong		
15 APR 1998		
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REDACTED

12 April 1998

Bishop Philip Wilson DD JCL  
Bishop of Wollongong  
PO Box 1239  
WOLLONGONG SCMC NSW 2521

Dear Bishop Wilson

ASSESSMENT OF FR JOHN NESTOR

In my progress report to you of 17 March 1998, I advised that I was still in discussion with the NSW Police Service over the release of statements made by ABA [redacted] and an unnamed man concerning the behaviour of Fr Nestor. I am pleased to advise that I have now received those documents from the police.

Whilst the facts of the alleged assault upon ABA [redacted] are generally well known, it is of interest that in his statement ABA [redacted] alleges that he, and sometimes his brother ABB [redacted], slept at the Dapto presbytery on a number of occasions and occupied the same bed as Fr Nestor. Whilst no sexual assaults are alleged, the issue will need further exploration.

The other complainant to the police is a ABH [redacted] who, at the age of fourteen, attended a camp run by Fr Nestor in December 1991. ABH [redacted] alleges examples of the now-familiar shower scrutiny behaviour by Fr Nestor and also an incident at Braidwood when Fr Nestor took him from a cricket game and led him into some trees where he embraced the boy. ABH [redacted] feared a sexual assault and broke free and left the scene.

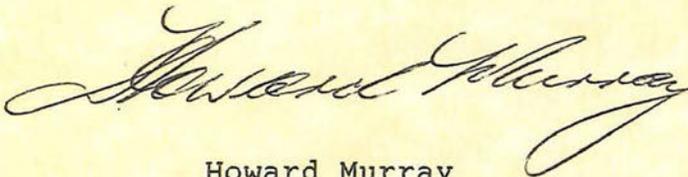
ABM [redacted] who saw you in December 1997, has been interviewed and a statement has been forwarded to her for signature.

I've spoken to Janet Morrissey, a former teacher at Edmund Rice College, who raised concerns about aspects of Fr Nestor's pastoral practices which appeared to be inappropriate in focusing on sexuality issues when dealing with Year 7 students. At Ms Morrissey's suggestion I've written to Ms Pat Hegarty, another former Edmund Rice College staff member who now lives in the UK, and asked her for her observations of Fr Nestor's conduct. I expect a response shortly.

Within the next week or so, I anticipate writing to Fr Nestor to give him the opportunity to respond to the allegations which have been made against him. Whether or not he chooses to do so is, of course, a matter for his judgement. Once that issue is resolved, and any interview conducted, a report will be prepared for your consideration.

Please contact me at the office on [REDACTED] or at home on [REDACTED] should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



Howard Murray